Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08749 302128Z

70
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-01 USIA-12 L-03 PA-02

/030 W
---------- 129354
P 302013Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4491

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8749

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, AR(COOPER, JOHN).
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT.

REF: STATE 232655 AND PREVIOUS.

1. EMBASSY IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT BY TELEPHONE WITH USIS REPRESENTATIVE IN MENDOZA WHO ASSISTING IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION OF BODY, AUTOPSY, PREPARATION AND SHIPMENT OF BODY TO BAIRES. DOCTOR NOT YET APPOINTED TO MAKE AUTOPSY, BUT SINCE MENDOZA IS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF CIRCA 400,000 POPULATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL APPOINT QUALIFIED DOCTOR TO PERFORM AUTOPSY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS CASE RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY.

2. ACCORDING TO A REPORT RECEIVED FROM USIS REPRESENTATIVE AT 1400 HOURS, NOV. 30., COOPER'S BODY NOT YET RECOVERED FROM MOUNTAIN DUE TO BAD WEATHER. AUTHORITIES NOW PLANNING ATTEMPT HELICOPTER RECOVERY EFFORT AS SOON AS WEATHER CLEARS. PROBABLY ABOUT DEC. 1 OR 2. LAND RECOVERY EFFORTS AT PRESENT IMPOSSIBLE.

3. WHEN ALFONSO REACHED COOPER'S BODY AND ATTEMPTED INJECT FORMALIN INTO BODY, HE DISCOVERED THERE PUNCTURE WOUNDS IN STOMACH AREA. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TO PRESS AND HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PLAY IN MENDOZA AND SOME IN BAIRES. THIS MATTER DISCUSSED BY EMBASSY OFFICER WITH MR. LOREN MCINTYRE, AMCIT WHO FIRST DISCOVERED BODY (SEE BA 8598 AND STATE 229509). HE STATED HE DID NOT OPEN COOPER'S CLOTHING AND THUS DID NOT SEE WOUNDS, BUT
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08749 302128Z

HE NOT SURPRISED THEY EXIST SINCE BODY DID HAVE LONG FALL AND SINCE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

COOPER CARRYING ICE AX AS PART HIS REGULAR CLIMBING EQUIPMENT.
THIS AX HAS TWO POINTED ENDS WHICH PROBABLE CAUSE OF PUNCTURE
WOUNDS. OFFICIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE WOUNDS WILL BE
AVAILABLE WHEN AUTOPSY MADE, AND EMBASSY POSITION TO DISCOURAGE
DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS ISSUE UNTIL AUTOPSY HAS BEEN PERFORMED.
MCINTYRE STATED HE THINKS THERE NO REPEAT NO GROUNDS FOR ANY
SUSPICION OF FOUL PLAY AS HINTED AT IN LOCAL PRESS.
KREBS

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS08749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: kelleyw0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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